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Museums & Cultural Affairs

The City of El Paso Public Arts Committee (PAC) Tuesday, July 9, 2013, 3:30 PM MCAD Board Room

MINUTES

CITY CLERK DEPT.
2013 SEP -4 AM 9:47

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 3:37 pm.
2. **Roll Call: Members Present:** Anna Aleman, Melissa Barba-Espinosa, Kim Bauer, Ken Gorski, Jeannine Kennedy, Marina Monsisvais (Chair), Daniela Quesada Rivas, Jane Thomas.
Members Absent: Robert Gonzalez.
Others Present: Pat Dalbin, Jeff Howell, Misty Castaneda.
3. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **Approval of Minutes.** Chair asked for approval of the Minutes for the last meeting on May 14, 2013, as submitted. Jane Thomas so moved; Ken Gorski seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.
5. **Discussion and Action on the Design Concept for the Pedestrian Pathway Public Art Project by Matthew Geller.** Pat Dalbin began by introducing Matthew Geller, who joined via conference call and provided images of his design concept for review via a PowerPoint presentation. His concept was developed on project goals that were given to him such as that it be interactive, it has a misting feature, it be integrated with the pathway design, and it provide an opportunity for people who use the pathway to cool off. He titled his concept 'Drizzle Grove' and showed a few images of his past work. He went on to say that his concept is 60 feet tall and will be able to be seen from the pathway, the plaza, the Durango Street bridge and from left field of the baseball stadium. He continued to describe his concept as a steel structure with strategically located misters and showerheads that create an ever-changing interactive visual with four sections that create mist, and one or all of the sections could be on at any given time. There are four groups of mist nozzles at 10, 20, 35 and 56 feet, along with 5 water nozzles (showerheads) operated by a user-controlled button that turns the water on for a few seconds so one gets refreshed, but not wet. Those are located at intervals of 1 ½, 15, 25, 35 and 45 feet. In-ground uplights in the pavement and LED lights on the pipes light the structure. Matthew concluded his presentation and opened the floor for questions. General discussion followed. Kim Bauer asked what his color choices were based upon, and Matthew replied that it was a painted surface and he picked various shades of green to be reminiscent of a forest. Ken Gorski asked whether he had considered white, and Matthew replied that he has considered a monochromatic color scheme. Kim asked what the painted surface was and Matthew replied to that it was epoxy-based paint, chosen to make repairs easier. Kim inquired about people climbing on the structure and Matthew replied that the gutters also serve as deterrents to climbing, being two feet in diameter each. Marina Monsisvais asked whether it would be possible to control the color scheme of the lighting and Matthew replied yes, but the color choice would be limited. Chair requested a motion to approve the design concept with the feedback that the artist consider design on the concrete, a monochromatic color scheme and make it not climbable. Jane Thomas so moved; Melissa Barba-Espinosa seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.
6. **Discussion and Action on the Design Concept for the Pedestrian Pathway Public Art Project by Stephen Ingle.** Stephen Ingle began by explaining where his concept would be located on the Pedestrian Pathway, in the downtown area that joins the Union Plaza and the walkway behind the Convention Center. His concept is titled 'Pinata Plaza' and he is trying to bring in a cultural reference with the elements by looking at different things that catch the eye like light and color. Images of the design concept were provided via a PowerPoint presentation. Inspiration is coming from Mexican tile and cut-outs, including the idea of a piñata, but in a more contemporary form. Each form is cut from steel using plasma and water jet cuts before being powder-coated and sealed with a poly, then suspended in the air underneath an overpass. The lowest point is 11 ½ feet off the ground and they are 6 feet in diameter.

The piñatas are illuminated from the inside and the projections show on the ground and the ceiling via the different cut-outs on the piñatas. Birds are projected to the ceiling, creating an overwhelming pattern and designs with birds being a focal point, and skull images are projected onto the floor. There are also clear stars suspended from the ceiling on a cable that shoot a prism of white light around the area, providing a more elegant look. Light engineers are looking at different ways to project so that the best lighting source is used. Stephen concluded his presentation and opened the floor for questions. General discussion followed. Kim Bauer asked where the projection of the skulls would be, and Stephen replied they would be on the ground. Pat Dalbin asked what material the clear panels are and Stephen replied it is silicone made for signage. Pat continued to ask if he was within his budget and Stephen replied that he is throwing all the money allocated into the project without keeping anything because he wants to make a statement and his name depends on it. Chair requested a motion to approve with the feedback that the artist work on unifying his design, making one element, such as the large piñatas, a primary focus; the artist should be conscious of his budget and consider sticking to the underpass area, not the peripheral parts; the artist should consider size variations for the piñatas and eliminating the white lights. Ken Gorski so moved; Jane Thomas seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Action on the Design Development for the Upper Valley Roundabout Project by Margarita Cabrera. Margarita Cabrera began by introducing her project, 'Uplift', which has the intention of bringing the border community together in a very uplifting, transformational and creative process. The border community is invited to be a part in the making of this piece. She then introduced Salvador Nuñez, the structural engineer for the project, who was present to answer any questions about the structure itself. She reiterated the concerns that had been brought to her attention about her previous maquette. The primary issues communicated to her were the structural engineers were not completely finished, there were durability issues with the materials chosen and there was a component to the primary structure that was pre-fabricated. She continued to say that all the issues had been addressed and went on to provide images for review via a PowerPoint slideshow. Margarita described the form of the structure as a representation of a flock of birds as they are taking flight in an uplift motion. There are 100 modules of 6 birds each in the formation, and the community is invited to take part in the making of the sculpture. The birds will be 24' from wing to wing and 18' from beak to tail, with papel picado designs plasma-cut into the wings. An elegant almond color that creates beautiful three-dimensionality with a lot of shading and lighting throughout the piece will be used for the birds. Margarita provided structural drawings for each bird module along with drawings of the primary structure. She continued with a brief explanation of how the sculpture would be secured to the foundation and the type of lighting that would be used on the project. Margarita mentioned that she still planned to use confiscated gun fragments embedded in the cement foundation and provided a list of materials needed, calendar of events and the budgetary layout for the project as a whole. Margarita concluded her presentation and opened the floor for questions. General discussion followed. Kim Bauer asked how you prep for a water jet cut, and Margarita responded that the fabricator scans a drawing into his computer and uses software connected to the plasma-cutting machine to make the cuts. Kim mentioned that 100 modules is a lot of images to scan, and Margarita responded by saying there will only be 30 designs selected for scanning and those 30 designs will be repeated throughout the piece. Pat Dalbin asked if all the fabrication and installation would take place on-site, and Margarita responded that all fabrication would be done at Westside Welding with the modules being welded into clusters and those clusters will be welded together on-site. Pat went on to ask when the piece would be painted and Margarita responded that it would be painted before it gets welded and then there would be touch-ups because after welding you get little chips and stains. Kim Bauer asked what one would see around the sculpture and whether he would be looking at trees, houses, or what the color would be seen against. Margarita replied that there is a lot of vegetation in the area and for the height of the piece, the backdrop would be green trees and sky. Kim Bauer asked Margarita to better sell him on the beige color, and Margarita replied that two components play into the color choice; first, making each bird a different color would be difficult to achieve at this scale due to financial restraints, and second, she continued to explain that she felt the almond color creates a sense of elegance within a bi-cultural community that is very peaceful and pure. Chair requested a motion to approve with the feedback that the artist removes 20% of the birds from the base and incorporate greenery to raise the base of the sculpture above the foundation for access in the interest of public safety; a full-size sample of a bird without sharp edges is also being requested. Ken Gorski so moved; Jane Thomas seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and Action on a Public Art Project for the Sun Metro Operations Facility on Montana and Global Reach and Develop an Open Call to Artists. Pat Dalbin began by explaining to members that this project was back and a stand-alone sculpture that is site-specific is being requested. Marina Monsisvais asked what the budget was and Pat replied it was \$200,000. Marina asked if we were debating to go local, and Pat replied it would be a national call. Chair requested a motion to approve a national call for artists and bringing a public art project back to the Sun Metro Operations Facility. Jane

Thomas so moved; Melissa Barba-Espinosa seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and Action on the Designs of Robert Davidoff and Gaspar Enriquez for the AAA Baseball Stadium. Jeff Howell began by showing Robert Davidoff's concept rendering of the river theme via a PowerPoint slideshow and explained the design to members, noting the river itself has a different glass texture so it stands out. He continued by noting that Gaspar Enriquez's concept would be in three different locations and showed the images that were selected by the owners via a PowerPoint slideshow. He proceeded to show individual close-up images of each panel, explaining that the panels are stained glass and the black lines going through are a steel frame to support the glass. Jeff continued to explain where the panels would be placed in relationship to one another, one on the concourse level, one on the club level and one near the entrance on the club level. Chair requested a motion to approve. Ken Gorski so moved; Jeannine Kennedy seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

10. Adjournment. Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Anna Aleman so moved; Jeannine Kennedy seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 5:48pm. Next meeting scheduled for August 13, 2013.

Approved for content by:
Patricia Dalbin, Public Art Program Coordinator

Respectfully submitted by:
Misty Castaneda, Administrative Assistant